



5518 Liberty Grove Rd.
Rowlett, TX 75089
(972) 475-5888
www.covingtonnursery.com

Diane's Secret Soil Recipe For Great Tomatoes

(Works great for Peppers, Eggplant and Potatoes too!)

Based on a raised bed with 4ft. x 8 ft. dimensions

To prepare bed, dig out existing clay soil to a depth of 6 inches, removing any undesirable vegetation or weeds. Next, add the following amendments **in order** to build up the level of the bed to 8 inches.

- **Expanded Shale- 40 lb bag - 3 bags**
- **Composted Cow Manure 10-20 lbs. Or 10-20 lbs. Poultry litter**
- **Back to Earth Composted Cotton Burrs - 10 bags**

Mix shale, compost and manure together and then add:

- **Thrive - Mycorrhizal Fungi**
- **Soft Rock Phosphate – 3 lbs.**
- **Alfalfa Meal – 1 lb.**
- **Earthworm Castings - 1lb.**

Lightly work the fungi, rock phosphate, alfalfa meal and earthworm castings into the soil, broadcasting it evenly throughout the bed. Then add:

- **Covington's Soil Builder- 1.5 cubic ft. bag - 16 bags**

Spread evenly throughout the bed.

Fertilize at time of planting with **Fertilome Gardeners Special (11-15-11), Happy Frog 7-4-5, Tomato and Vegetable Food or Natures Guide Tomato/Pepper Food 4-3-2.**

Tip: Add ½ cup of **Epsom Salts** to the planting hole of each new vegetable transplant and water in well. Repeat every 4 weeks throughout the growing season.

Tip: Spent **Coffee grounds** are a natural soil amendment and can be used as a top dressing (applied directly to the soil) for all vegetable plantings. Great amendment for alkaline soils as they add acidic organic matter to the soil.

Diane's Secret Soil Recipe for Container Grown Tomatoes

(Works great for Peppers, Eggplant and Potatoes too!)

A 20 or 30-gallon container will work best. Good choices include whiskey barrels and high-grade plastic containers. Be sure that your container has adequate drainage holes. If preparing several containers at once, it is easier to layer and mix containers simultaneously.

Add ingredients in order listed:

- **Covington's Soil Builder** - 1.5 cubic ft. - **1 bag**
- **Expanded Shale** - 40 lb bag - **10 lbs. Or ¼ bag**
- **Composted Cow Manure 3 lbs. Or 3 lbs. Poultry litter**

Mix these ingredients together, then add:

- **Soft Rock Phosphate** - **1 cup**
- **Alfalfa Meal** - **1 cup**
- **Earthworm Castings** - **1 cup**

Lightly mix these ingredients together, and then add:

- **Covington's Soil Builder**

Until the soil level is 4" below the lip of the container.

Fertilize at time of planting with **Fertilome Gardeners Special (11-15-11)**, **Happy Frog 7-4-5**, **Tomato and Vegetable Food** or **Natures Guide Tomato/Pepper Food 4-3-2**.

Tip: Add ½ cup of **Epsom Salts** to the planting hole of each new vegetable transplant and water in well. Repeat every 4 weeks throughout the growing season.

Tip: Spent **Coffee grounds** are a natural soil amendment and can be used as a top dressing (applied directly to the soil) for all vegetable plantings. Great amendment for alkaline soils as they add acidic organic matter to the soil.

Tip: **Mulch** your container plantings with 2" of cedar or hardwood mulch. This will help to ensure that plants stay consistently moist.